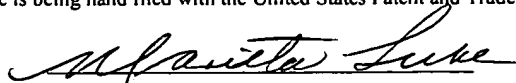


CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. on September 24, 2001.


Marieta Luke

JC971 U.S. PTO
09/960528



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Hiroshi SUMIYAMA et al.

Serial No.: to be assigned

Filing Date: September 24, 2001

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS
AND IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM

Examiner: to be assigned

Group Art Unit: to be assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration these documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of these documents are also submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted with the filing of a new U.S. patent application. No fee is required.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the copy of the Form PTO-1449 indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

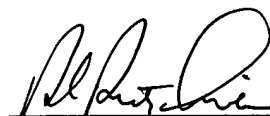
This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 is not to be construed as a representation that: (I) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from these document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of these documents to Deposit Account No. 03-1952. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 24, 2001

By:



Barry E. Bretschneider
Registration No. 28,055

Morrison & Foerster ^{LLP}
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1888
Telephone: (202) 887-1545
Facsimile: (202) 263-8396

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | Docket Number 325772026900 | Application Number to be assigned |
| | Applicant Hiroshi SUMIYAMA et al. | |
| | Filing Date September 24, 2001 | Group Art Unit to be assigned |
| | | |

1c971 U.S. PTO
09/960528
09/24/01

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Date | Document No. | Name | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|----------------------|-------------|------|--------------|------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Date | Document No. | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation YES NO |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------------|
| | 1. | 11-16-1999 | 11-314438 | Japan | | | abstract |
| | 2. | 07-31-1998 | 10-198540 | Japan | | | abstract |
| | 3. | 04-24-1998 | 10-105353 | Japan | | | abstract |

OTHER DOCUMENTS

(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Title |
|----------------------|-------------|-------|
| | | |

EXAMINER: (examiner)

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.